

## Message Text

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14-11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-10 OMB-01 ACDA-05 TRSE-00

MC-02 /094 W

----- 042786

R 040825Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2255

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM

SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMS SALES TO LIBYA

REF: JIDDA 3904 (NOTAL)

1. IN TRIPOLI WE ARE INCLINED TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN SOVIET INFLUENCE IN LIBYA AND SOVIET ARMS SALES. ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS SEEM TO BE SELLING THE LIBYANS ALL THE ARMS THEY WANT TO BUY, IN QUALITY AND QUANTITY FAR EXCEEDING THE CAPACITY OF THE LIBYAN ARMY, EVIDENCE SO FAR IS THAT QADHAFI REMAINS AS ANTI-COMMUNIST AND AS SUSPICIOUS OF THE SOVIETS AS EVER.

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AS HE SAID TO A RECENT INTERVIEWER WHO RAISED QUESTION OF

SOVIET DESIGNS: "WE ARE CAUTIOUS AND PUT OUR FEET ON FIRM GROUND. WE THEREFORE HAVE NO FEAR THAT WE MIGHT SLIP." WHETHER QADHAFI'S SELF-CONFIDENCE IS MISPLACED REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT WE WOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE THE LIBYAN WILL TO HOLD ONTO POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE.

2. THUS FOR TIME BEING, IN OUR MIND, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF SOVIET ARMS SALES LIES NOT SO MUCH IN DANGER OF SOVIET PENETRATION OF LIBYA AS IT DOES IN FACT THAT THEY STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE MOST IRRESPONSIBLE REGIME IN THE AREA, AND ADD TO QADHAFI'S POTENTIAL FOR EXERTING INFLUENCE IN EGYPT. IN OUR VIEW, THIS SHOULD BE OF CONCERN TO THE SAUDIS. WE ARE NOT SURPRISED TO HEAR THAT QADHAFI IS SAYING THAT SOVIET ARMS HE IS ACQUIRING WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO "THE ARABS" IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER MIDEAST WAR, BUT PRINCE FAHD'S STATEMENT THAT QADHAFI IS WINNING ARAB PRAISE FOR HAVING BOUGHT THE ARMS IS DISCOURAGING EVIDENCE THAT HIS STRATEGY IS WORKING TO SOME EXTENT.  
STEIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, ANTICOMMUNIST, MILITARY SALES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 JIDDA 3904  
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**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Subject:** SOVIET ARMS SALES TO LIBYA  
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